

AN ACT

relating to placement of children with certain relatives or other designated caregivers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 264, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 264.7541 to read as follows:

Sec. 264.7541. CAREGIVER VISIT WITH CHILD; INFORMATION.

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), before placing a child with a proposed relative or other designated caregiver, the department must:

(1) arrange a visit between the child and the proposed caregiver; and

(2) provide the proposed caregiver with a form, which may be the same form the department provides to nonrelative caregivers, containing information, to the extent it is available, about the child that would enhance continuity of care for the child, including:

(A) the child's school information and educational needs;

(B) the child's medical, dental, and mental health care information;

(C) the child's social and family information;
and

(D) any other information about the child the

1 department determines will assist the proposed caregiver in meeting
2 the child's needs.

3 (b) The department may waive the requirements of Subsection
4 (a) if the proposed relative or other designated caregiver has a
5 long-standing or significant relationship with the child and has
6 provided care for the child at any time during the 12 months
7 preceding the date of the proposed placement.

8 SECTION 2. Subsection (b), Section 264.755, Family Code, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (b) Monetary assistance provided under this section must
11 include a one-time cash payment [~~of not more than \$1,000~~] to the
12 caregiver on the initial placement of a child or a sibling group.
13 The amount of the cash payment, as determined by the department, may
14 not exceed \$1,000 for each child. The payment for placement of a
15 sibling group must be at least \$1,000 for the group, but may not
16 exceed \$1,000 for each child in the group. The cash payment must be
17 provided on the initial placement of each child with the caregiver
18 and is provided to assist the caregiver in purchasing essential
19 child-care items such as furniture and clothing.

20 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
21 to the placement of a child for whom the Department of Family and
22 Protective Services is named managing conservator on or after the
23 effective date of this Act.

24 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act to Subsection
25 (b), Section 264.755, Family Code, does not make an appropriation
26 or require a specific appropriation. The new duty imposed on the
27 Department of Family and Protective Services as a result of the

1 changes to that section must be performed through the
2 appropriations provided by the legislature as part of the existing
3 responsibilities of the department.

4 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 502 passed the Senate on
April 4, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 502 passed the House on
May 17, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 134, Nays 0, two
present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor